

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/695,510

Examiner

Andre' L. Jackson

Applicant(s)

WEN-PIN, CHUANG

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment of March 5, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: A reasons for allowance appears in the Ex-parte Quayle Action of January 25, 2005. In summary, the prior art made of record as a whole does not disclose or suggest the specific structural arrangement as set forth in applicant's claims. Applicant claims an adjustable hinge shaft device comprising a male shaft tube, a female shaft tube and an adjustment rod with the specific structure set forth. The male shaft tube defines a tubular sleeve at one end of a mounting flange. The tubular sleeve further including a tapered hole section at a distal end of the tubular sleeve with a threaded hole section at a proximal end of the tubular sleeve. One or more lengthwise channels are disposed on the tubular sleeve of the male shaft tube. The female shaft tube defines a tubular sleeve with a columnar bore therein and an annular groove near an entrance to the columnar bore of the tubular sleeve of the female shaft tube. And the adjustment rod defines a tapered sleeve or rod, a threaded stud region is disposed at a proximal end of the tapered rod with a round projecting edge at the proximal end of the threaded stud. The rod defines a columnar passage where a slot is formed through the tapered rod. The slot and the projecting edge is articulated along the entire tapered rod.

Liu (#5,715,576) is considered the closest prior art. Liu discloses a hinge device having a barrel 2 (female shaft tube), a cap 4 (male shaft tube), and an actuator 30 (adjustment rod) at the least designed to maintain two rotatable members at a desired angular position. The cap defines a tubular sleeve at one end of a mounting flange, the cap further including a tapered hole section at a distal end of the tubular sleeve with a threaded hole section at a proximal end of the tubular sleeve.

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The barrel defines a tubular sleeve with a columnar bore therein and an annular groove near an entrance to the columnar bore. And the actuator defines a tapered sleeve and a columnar passage where a slot is formed through the tapered sleeve.

However, Liu fails to disclose or suggest at the least, one or more lengthwise channels are disposed on the tubular sleeve of the cap. Further, the actuator does not define a tapered sleeve or rod where a threaded stud region is disposed at a proximal end of the tapered rod with a round projecting edge at the proximal end of the threaded stud, wherein the slot and the projecting edge is articulated along the entire tapered sleeve as claimed.

None of the other prior art references made of record cure the deficiencies of Liu. Thus, the prior art made of record as a whole does not disclose or suggest all of the structural limitations set forth in applicant's claims whether taken singly or used in combination thereof.

The Examiner believes applicant's claims as presently presented are patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

CONCLUSION

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre' L. Jackson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7067. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. (9:30 am - 6 pm).


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

André L. Jackson
Patent Examiner
AU 3677

ALJ



ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER